



U.S. House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr., Chairman

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News Advisory

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Sensenbrenner Announces Hearing Next Week on Constitutional Questions Raised by the FBI's Unprecedented Saturday Night Raid of Congress

WASHINGTON, D.C. – House Judiciary Committee Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.) today announced the Committee will hold an oversight hearing next week on the constitutional questions raised by the FBI's unprecedented Saturday night raid of Rep. William Jefferson's (D-La.) Capitol Hill office.

Chairman Sensenbrenner stated, "Members of Congress must follow the law and be held accountable just like everyone else. By no means, should Rep. Jefferson's alleged conduct be condoned, but there is a constitutional way for justice to be served. The FBI's unprecedented Saturday night raid of Rep. Jefferson's Capitol Hill Office raises profoundly disturbing constitutional questions that must be addressed."

"In their wisdom, the Founders established checks and balances in our system of government to protect the ability of the People's representatives to do their jobs free of intimidation or threats from the executive branch. Unfortunately, the FBI's raid seriously infringed upon the Constitution's Speech or Debate protection for the People's representatives in a way not seen in the past 219 years and could have a chilling impact on the Legislative Branch's ability to function. Tuesday's hearing will focus on these constitutional issues and what remedies might be necessary," added Chairman Sensenbrenner.

WHAT: Oversight Hearing entitled, "Reckless Justice: Did the Saturday Night Raid of Congress Trample the Constitution"

WHO: House Judiciary Committee – Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-Wis.), Chairman

WHEN: 9:30 AM, Tuesday, May 30, 2006

WHERE: 2141 Rayburn Building

TENTATIVE WITNESSES:

Professor Charles Tiefer, Professor at University of Baltimore School of Law and former Assistant Legal Counsel to the Senate (1979-1984), Solicitor and Deputy General Counsel to the House (1984-1995); **Professor Jonathan Turley**, Professor of Law at George Washington University Law School; **The Honorable Robert S. Walker**, former Representative from Pennsylvania and former Chairman of the Science Committee; and **Mr. Bruce Fein**, Esq., Principal at the Lichfield Group.

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